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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 /051 W
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R 291402Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1305
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

UNCLAS HELSINKI 0884

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, FI
SUBJECT: STRIKES BY TECHNICAL EMPLOYEES WORSENS LABOR SITUATION EVEN AS PROGRESS IN INDUSTRIAL SETTLEMENTS CONTINUES

REF: HELSINKI 0884

1. IRONY NOTED REFTEL HAS DEEPENED OVER PAST WEEK: MAJOR SAK UNIONS CONTINUING TO REACH AGREEMENTS ALONG MODERATE GUIDELINES PROPOSED BY STATE MEDIATOR KEIJO LIINAMAA, BUT SMALL UNIONS OF TECHNICIANS AFFILIATED WITH STTK ARE INCREASINGLY THREATENING MAJOR SECTORS OF FINNISH ECONOMY.

2. STTK TECHNICIANS IN POWER INDUSTRY REJECTED GOVERNMENT MEDIATOR'S OFFER APRIL 23 AND HAVE ANNOUNCED INDEFINITE CONTINUATION OF STRIKE. ILLEGAL SYMPATHY STRIKE BY STTK SHIP ENGINEERS CONTINUES, TYING UP FINNISH FLAG SHIPPING. STTK-INSPIRED SYMPATHY STRIKES IN SUPPORT OF ELECTRICAL POWER TECHNICIANS BROADENED THIS WEEK TO INCLUDE TECHNICIANS IN FOREST AND WOOD PRODUCTS INDUSTRY, METAL INDUSTRY, PAPER AND CLOTHING INDUSTRY. FINNAIR TECHNICIANS CONTINUE TO BLOCK DOMESTIC AIR SERVICE. IN ALL, SOME 50,000 INDUSTRIAL TECHNICIANS ARE IN PROCESS OF GOING OUT
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ON SYMPATHY STRIKES THREATENING TO FORCE LAYOFFS IN THE VERY INDUSTRIES IN WHICH SAK-AFFILIATED UNIONS HAVE COME TO AGREEMENT. EMPLOYERS' REPRESENTATIVES CONTEND STTK DEMANDS ARE MORE THAN TWICE LIINAMAA RECOMMENDATIONS.

3. A SECOND STRIKE CAUSING PUBLIC INCONVENIENCE IS

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BY HOTEL AND RESTAURANT WORKERS WHOSE THUS FAR LIMITED STRIKE IS BEING EXPLANDED TO AFFECT MORE AND MORE ESTABLISHMENTS.

4. AMONG THE INDUSTRIAL UNIONS, HOWEVER, CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS CONTINUES TO BE MADE. METALWORKERS VOTED 55 PERCENT IN FAVOR OF ACCEPTING LIINAMAA PROPOSAL, EASILY OVER-RIDING COMMUNISH OPPOSITION WHICH OPPOSED SETTLEMENT. ALSO, THE ALMOST TWO-MONTH LONG STRIKE OF SHOE WORKERS HAS ENDED AND A THREATENED POLICE STRIKE CANCELLED AS AGREEMENT REACHED. MOST TRUCKERS AND BUS STRIKERS HAVE ALSO RETURNED TO WORK FOLLOWING AGREEMENT.

5. WAVE OF STRIKES AND LAYOFFS CAUSED BY SMALL STTK CONFEDERATION IS CAUSING INCREASING IRRITATION AND CONCERN AMONG POLITICAL PARTIES, HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND SAK. INCOMES POLICY NEGOTIATOR LIINAMAA STATED THAT AS SOON AS PRESENT BARGAINING ROUND CONCLUDED LABOR MARKET ORGANIZATIONS MUST SIT DOWN TOGETHER TO DEVELOP NEW REGULATIONS TO AVOID PROBLEMS SUCH AS THOSE EXPERIENCED THIS YEAR. MINISTER OF ECONOMY AHTI KARJALAINEN ALSO STATED IN PARLIAMENT THAT GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE TO CONSIDER MEASURES TO AVOID IN FUTURE THIS SPRING'S EXPERIENCE IN THE LABOR MARKET.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, INDUSTRY, LABOR STRIKES, STRIKE SETTLEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
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Subject: STRIKES BY TECHNICAL EMPLOYEES WORSENS LABOR SITUATION EVEN AS PROGRESS IN INDUSTRIAL SETTLEMENTS CONTINUES
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